

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1. (currently amended):** A positive planographic printing plate precursor comprising a hydrophilic support, and an organic undercoating layer, a lower layer and an image recording layer disposed on the hydrophilic support, wherein:

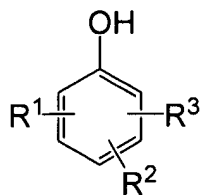
the lower layer includes a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin in an amount of 0.1 to 5.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and

the image recording layer includes a novolak type phenolic resin containing phenol and m-cresol as structural units, in which m-cresol is contained in an amount of 10% by mole or more of the total amount of the resin and wherein the novolak type phenolic resin has a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 10,000, and a light-to-heat conversion agent, and

the image recording layer exhibits increased solubility in an alkaline aqueous solution when exposed to an infrared laser.

**2. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin contains phenol as a structural unit thereof in a range of from 20 to 90% by mole.

**3. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing of phenol and a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I) with an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a halogen atom; R<sup>3</sup> represents an alkyl group or cycloalkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

**4. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3, wherein a phenol content in monomers constituting the resin obtained by condensing of phenol and a substituted phenol represented by general formula (I) with an aldehyde is in a range of from 21 to 90% by mole.

**5. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin further comprises xlenol as a structural unit thereof.

**6. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein a phenol content in monomers constituting the novolak type phenolic resin is in a range of from 21 to 90% by mole.

**7. (canceled).**

**8. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the image recording layer contains a novolak type phenolic resin other than the novolak type

phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit thereof in an amount of from 5 to 50 % by weight based on a total solid content of all the phenolic type novolak resins.

**9. (currently amended):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the image recording layer contains a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin other than the novolak type phenolic resins selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin.

**10. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the image recording layer contains a onium salt.

**11. (currently amended):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin included in the lower layer is selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin.

**12. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the image recording layer includes the novolak type phenolic resin and the lower layer includes an acrylic resin.

**13. (original):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the lower layer includes a light-to-heat conversion agent.

**14. (new):** A positive planographic printing plate precursor comprising a hydrophilic support, and a lower layer and an image recording layer disposed on the hydrophilic support, wherein:

the lower layer includes a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin in an amount of 0.1 to 5.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and

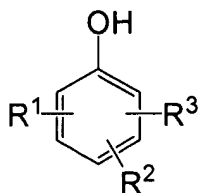
the image recording layer includes a novolak type phenolic resin containing phenol and m-cresol as structural units, in which m-cresol is contained in an amount of 10% by mole or more of the total amount of the resin, and a light-to-heat conversion agent, and

the image recording layer exhibits increased solubility in an alkaline aqueous solution when exposed to an infrared laser,

wherein the image recording layer contains a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin other than the novolak type phenolic resins selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin.

**15. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin contains phenol as a structural unit thereof in a range of from 20 to 90% by mole.

**16. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing of phenol and a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I) with an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a halogen atom;  $R^3$  represents an alkyl group or cycloalkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

**17. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 16, wherein a phenol content in monomers constituting the resin obtained by condensing of phenol and a substituted phenol represented by general formula (I) with an aldehyde is in a range of from 21 to 90% by mole.

**18. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin further comprises xylenol as a structural unit thereof.

**19. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein a phenol content in monomers constituting the novolak type phenolic resin is in a range of from 21 to 90% by mole.

**20. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the image recording layer contains a novolak type phenolic resin other than the novolak type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit thereof in an amount of from 5 to 50 % by weight based on a total solid content of all the phenolic type novolak resins.

**21. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the image recording layer contains a onium salt.

**22. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin included in the lower layer is selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin.

**23. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the image recording layer includes the novolak type phenolic resin and the lower layer includes an acrylic resin.

**24. (new):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the lower layer includes a light-to-heat conversion agent.